

NOTES ON SOME OPHIDIANS FROM KING'S SOUND,  
NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA.

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The snakes collected by Mr. Froggatt in the vicinity of King's Sound during last year consisted of six species only, but of these two species are undoubtedly new.

Those previously described are—

NARDOA GILBERTI, Gray. Two specimens.

BRACHYSOMA SIMILE, Macleay. One specimen.

PSEUDECHIS DARWINIENSIS, Macleay. Two specimens.

ACANTHOPHIS ANTARCTICA, Wagler. One specimen.

The specimen of *Acanthophis* is very young, too young for proper determination, and may be distinct from the *Antarctica* of the eastern parts of Australia. I find that the number of sub-caudal shields in *Pseudechis Darwiniensis* is very variable in the two specimens got by Mr. Froggatt; one numbers 39 entire and 15 double sub-caudal plates, the other 34 entire and 30 double. The following are new species:—

DIPSAS ORNATA, n.sp.

Scales in 15 rows.

Anal plate entire.

Abdominal plates, 277.

Sub-caudals, 120/120.

Total length, 4 feet.

Head, 1 inch.

Tail, 9 inches.

Head broad, flat, rounded at the muzzle, and very suddenly contracted behind into a very narrow neck. Body elongate, compressed, almost keeled along the centre of the back, and tapering to a very long fine tail. The mouth is much curved, there are nine upper and ten lower labials, the loreal is nearly square, the anterior ocular is large, and the two posterior oculars small. The colour is yellowish-white, closely banded with broad black fasciæ from the head to the extremity of the tail; these fasciæ are less continuous on the neck and upper parts, and assume the form of large spots, and even on the hinder parts of the body they are a little interrupted; they all slope a little backwards, and are never continued on the ventral plates. The most remarkable thing about this species is the small number of body scales (15 only), whereas in all the other species the numbers are from 19 to 23. It is a very handsome and beautifully marked species.

DIEMENIA ANGUSTICEPS, n.sp.

Scales in 15 rows.

Anal plates, 2.

Abdominal plates, 201.

Sub-caudal plates, 83/83.

Total length, 2 feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Tail, 6 inches.

Of slender form, the head narrow, elongate, and not narrowed behind into a neck; the posterior frontal shields large, their lateral margin in contact with the posterior nasal; the vertical and superciliary shields are long, the former scarcely wider at the apex than the base, and a little triangular at both ends; the posterior nasal is long and narrow, and with the anterior ocular takes the place of the loreal; there are six upper and lower

labials and two posterior oculars, all of normal form. The colour on the back is pale brownish-yellow, with a minute blackish spot on the apex of each scale; the under parts are of an unclouded yellowish-white; a brown stripe extends across the upper part of the rostral shield, along the nasal, and under the eye along the whole length of the labials; there are also one or two interrupted rather faint blackish streaks on the under side of the head. On the head shields a few pale brown spots are faintly visible. Eye large, pupil round.